

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02698 171420Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----068818 171421Z /46

O R 171343Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9596
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2698

EXDIS
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, PORG, OAU, ET, SO
SUBJECT: THE INDIANS AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 037063; (B) STATE 42000; (C) NEW DELHI 2463
(NOTAL)

1. THE INDIANS HERE HAVE DECLINED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON THE POSSIBLE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE OGADEN (REF A). WHEN POLCOUNSELOR APPROACHED MEA JOINT SECRETARY (AFRICA) BHARGAVA FEBRUARY 17 IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED UNSC ACTION, (REF B) AND ASKED HIM FOR FURTHER GOI THOUGHTS ON OUR EARLIER CONCEPTS, CONVEYED TO INDIANS FEBRUARY 14 (REF C), BHARGAVA'S REPLY WAS THAT ANY SETTLEMENT TO WHICH WARRING PARTIES COULD AGREE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO INDIANS. MATTER, HE SAIDN HAD BEEN TAKEN UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DURING HIS BRIEF APPPEARANCE IN NEW DELHI ENROUTE FROM SYDNEY TO THE STATE ELECTION CAMPAIGN TRAIL, AND THAT WAS APPROACH HE PREFERRED. REMINDED THAT WE HAD ALSO ASKED FOR INDIAN ASSESSMENT OF PROBABILITY OF ACCEPTANCE OF OUR APPROACH BY SOMALIS AND ETHIOPIANS, BHARGAVA REPLIED THAT INDIAN POSITION WAS THAT IT COULD NOT MAKE SUCH A JUDGMENT. HE REITERATED POINT MADE BY PM DESAI IN HIS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE SOVIET UNION AND THE US TO CONSULT EACH OTHER TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION AND PERHAPS TO PERSUADE BOTH PARTIES TO RESPECT THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE OAU CHARTER. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING ABOUT SUCH CONSULTATIONS.

2. BHARGAVA WAS SIMILARLY NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT PROPOSED UNSC MOVE. HERE TOO, HIS LINE WAS THAT IF IT PROVED ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOMALIS AND ETHIOPIANS IT WOULD BE FINE WITH NEW DELHI. HE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE ETHIOPIANS WILLINGNESS
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TO GO ALONG WITH A CEASEFIRE BEFORE THEY HAD FORCED THE SOMALIS OUT OF THEIR TERRITORY, CITING AS EVIDENCE A FEBRUARY 14 TASS ADDIS ABABA REPORT SOURCING ETHIOPIAN HERALD LISTING OF ETHIOPIAN CONDITIONS FOR PEACE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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